

JUDY BIGGERT
13TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEES:
EDUCATION AND LABOR
FINANCIAL SERVICES
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1313

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE:
1034 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-3515
Fax: (202) 225-6420

ILLINOIS OFFICE:
6262 SOUTH ROUTE 83
SUITE 305
WILLOWBROOK, IL 60527
(630) 655-2052
Fax: (630) 655-1061
<http://judybiggert.house.gov>

March 13, 2009

Honorable Eric K. Shinseki
Secretary
United States Department of Veterans' Affairs
810 Vermont Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Shinseki:

Thank you for meeting with the Illinois Congressional Delegation today. I would like to bring to your attention a very promising opportunity for veterans in the Chicago area.

Last July, I was approached by several veterans in my district regarding Silver Cross Hospital in Joliet, Illinois. The hospital received permission from the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board to relocate to a neighboring community, New Lenox, in 2012. In conjunction with this approval, Silver Cross created a Healthy Community Commission to assist the hospital in investigating usage options for the existing campus.

Since July, I have met with local veteran organizations and representatives of the Silver Cross Commission to explore the possibility of transforming the existing hospital facility into a Veteran service center. Silver Cross is committed to identifying facility uses to support the community, rather than be opportunistic in the sale of the property.

Therefore, on behalf of Silver Cross Hospital, the Silver Cross Health Community Commission and the veterans of the 13th Congressional District, I ask that the US Department of Veterans' Affairs join us to discuss the possibility of using the existing facility to serve the needs of the veteran community.

Sincerely,

Judy Biggert
Member of Congress